SERIES 3

EARLY HALF-DIMES.

NLS

T. Harrison Garrett.

A CLASSIFICATION

OF THE

EARLY HALF-DIMES

F THE

STATES.

N THEIR TYPES, VARIETIES,
. ETC., ETC.

BY

P. NEWLIN.

EDITION, 100.

SHED BY
HASELTINE,
ST., PHILADELPHIA.
383.

1077 Pine Street
Philadelphia
Oct 21-83

My dear Sir:
Mr Haseltine has published an article of mine on the varieties of the early Half Dimes, and I shall take the liberty of mailing it to you to-morrow, trusting that you will honor me by accepting it, & may it interest you somewhat because I have described

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the varieties of all the
Early 1/2 Dimes you purchased at my sale &
have illustrated them
all (including the 1802
1/2 Dime) upon plates.
Will you kindly inform
me at your convenience
what you ask for 1/2 &
1/4 Eagles, as I may be
able to help you out.
I still hold the 63 1/4 Eagle
& piece subject to your
approval. Do you desire
them? Truly Yrs
H. P. Newlin

A CLASSIFICATION

OF THE

EARLY HALF-DIMES

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

WITH A FEW REMARKS ON THEIR TYPES, VARIETIES,
RARITY, ETC., ETC.

BY

HAROLD P. NEWLIN.

LIMITED EDITION, 100.

PUBLISHED BY
JOHN W. HASELTINE,
201 S. ELEVENTH ST., PHILADELPHIA.
1883.

Feb 1077

THE EARLY HALF-DIMES.

In an exhaustive search to determine the varieties of the early Half-dimes the numismatist encounters two very serious obstacles; the extreme difficulty of securing a sufficient number of the rare dates to classify with much accuracy their varieties and their respective degrees of rarity, and the further difficulty of obtaining the different specimens in condition suitable for illustration upon plates. The writer contributes the following article, entirely conscious that it possesses little or no merit, in the hope that it may awaken an interest in the subject, and that at no far distant day a numismatist, eminently better qualified for the work, will give to the fraternity the benefit of his researches.

The entire absence upon the part of cataloguers of collections to describe with any degree of minuteness the varieties of the Half-dimes, would seem to indicate, either that collectors are generally ignorant of the fact that varieties exist, or that they deem them of too little importance to note. It seems unjust that these small but interesting coins should be so slighted, especially when the larger members of the family, the dollars, halves, quarters and cents, are treated by their admirers with such distinguished attention, and so many articles written descriptive of their beauty. An "amiable face," the length of a curl, in short, in a coin any marked peculiarity *sui generis* seems to insure for

it a greater appreciation and value, and one experiences no small feeling of pride in being the happy possessor of a *unique* piece. In view of this fact I have described the varieties, as far as I have discovered them, in order that collectors may examine their specimens, and perhaps bring to light other varieties not mentioned in this article, thereby adding their valuable observations to my own.

In the limited space allotted to this article it would seem useless to attempt a general description of the Half-dime, its origin, purpose and history. The reader can obtain these by reference to Snowden's Description of the Coins in the Cabinet of the U. S. Mint. My object is simply to point out the varieties, giving also, as accurately as I am able, their degrees of rarity. It is, I believe, generally conceded by Numismatists, that the first regular coinage of the U. S. Mint was in 1793—consisting of the copper cent and half-cent.

This belief would seem to exclude the 1792 Half-dime, known as the Martha Washington Half-disme, from the regular series, and for the reason that it is considered a Pattern-piece, not intended for general circulation and struck before the regular series commenced. Without desiring to place myself in direct opposition to this accepted opinion, I would simply say that having studied the history of the Half-dime with some degree of care, I can find in it nothing to indicate that it was intended simply for a trial piece.

Washington, in his annual address, November 6th, 1792, having said, *inter alia*, "There has been a small *beginning* in the coinage of Half-dimes, the want of small coins in circulation calling the

first attention to them," and it would certainly seem reasonable to accept the words of this gentleman, whose general reputation for veracity is, I believe, conceded to be good, and consider the 1792 Half-dime the "small beginning" in the said series. Mr. Snowden, in his book before alluded to, expresses his opinion thus: "We consider that the piece was intended for general circulation." I will quote his description of the piece, as I cannot improve upon it:

1792 Half-Disme.

No. 1. Obverse: A female head, emblematic of Liberty, facing to the left. This is popularly supposed to represent the features of Martha Washington, who is said to have sat to the artist while he was designing it; the hair is short and unconfined; immediately beneath, the date; the whole being encompassed by the Lib(erty) Par(ent) of Science and Industry. On the reverse is a small eagle volant, beneath which is described the value half-dime; legend, Uni States of America. This piece is said to have been struck from the private plate of Washington; it is not unlikely, considering the great interest which he took in the operations of the infant mint, visiting it frequently and personally superintending many of its affairs. This coin, as before shown, made its appearance in the month of October, 1792. The issue must have been small, and I consider them the rarest of the series, excepting the 1802 Half-dime. They seem to have been struck but from one set of dies. I have found no varieties. In the 1792 *dime*, struck in copper, I have noted two varieties; viz: plain and engrailed edge. I do not think that the price the Half-disme now brings is proportionate to its degree of rarity. Speci-

mens in fair condition bringing but two or three dollars. They can be obtained occasionally in beautiful uncirculated condition.

1794 Half-Dimes.

No. 1. Obverse: Head of Liberty, facing right, with flowing hair; eight stars to left, seven to right; date, distant from bust; last curl of hair ends in narrow point; E in Liberty, too high.

Reverse: Twelve berries in wreath, which is open above eagle's head; one twig on left opposite three twigs on right; three berries below left wing of eagle; R and I in America touch; leaf merges in letter I. This is the most common variety, but the specimens are weakly struck, especially in the date, and I believe it difficult to meet with a perfect example.

No. 2. The Distant, 1. Obverse: Date near bust, and 1 in date distant from 7; curl merges in next to last star; star distant from bust.

Reverse: Twelve berries in wreath, which nearly meets above eagle's head; one twig on left opposite *two* twigs on right; two berries below left wing of eagle; R and I in America do not touch; leaf distant from the letter I. This variety is rare. I have seen but six specimens.

No. 3. Obverse: Date near bust, but much closer than No. 2; 1 not distant from 7; Liberty wide and equi-distant.

Reverse: Same as No. 2. I have seen but six of this type.

No. 4. Obverse: Same as No. 3. Reverse differs from any of the preceding. A crack in the die extends below wing of eagle. I have only noticed one of this type.

The Half-dimes of this year are rare and hard to obtain in very fine or uncirculated condition. The Mint record does not

give the number of pieces coined, and Mr. Snowden, in describing them, says there was a small coinage of Half-dimes, but they were only struck as Pattern-pieces for the purpose of trying the dies, and were not issued. In another place, in his article entitled "Experimental Pieces," he seems to contradict the statement that they were patterns, for he writes: "1794, the first year the legal Half-dime was coined, a trial piece was struck in copper during the preparation of the dies." Thus we can either term it a pattern or the legal Half-dime; and I am strongly inclined to believe that it is the latter, and that the coinage was put into circulation.

In describing the pattern in copper he says, "it is of the same type as the legal half-dime, except that the reverse is without the wreath." An equally important difference which he neglected to note will be discovered by reference to his plate, viz.: the absence of stars in the obverse.

1795 Half-Dimes.

No. 1. Obverse: Bust facing right; seven stars to right, eight stars to left; 1 and 7 in date touch bust, curl joins one point in last star. In the word Liberty the B and E are far apart; the die is generally cracked from T to first star.

Reverse: Nine berries in wreath; berry between U and N in United *below* the line of wreath; D in United merges in wreath; twigs of wreath do not meet above eagle's head. This I consider the commonest variety, and it can be easily obtained in fine preservation.

No. 2. Obverse: 1 in date touches bust; the 5 and last star are on right distant from bust; B and E in Liberty very close, B

lower than E, and apart from I; second curl between two points of last star.

Reverse: Seven berries in wreath, no berries being under either wing of eagle. This variety is also common.

No. 3. Obverse: Same as No. 2.

Reverse: Nine berries in wreath; two berries opposite first S in States; wreath nearly meets above eagle's head. This variety is scarce.

No. 4. Obverse: 1 in date touches and 5 merges in bust. There are seven curls of the hair which are short and end abruptly; last star to right does not touch bust.

Reverse: Fourteen berries in wreath; twig nearly touches head of eagle on left. A rare variety.

No. 5. Obverse: The 1 in date does not touch bust; the 5 touches, but does not merge in bust as in No. 4. There are six curls which end in points; last curl passes through point of last star.

Reverse: Same as reverse No. 4.

I have examined over one hundred specimens of the 1795 Half-dimes, and have seen but two of this variety.

No. 6. Obverse: 1 in date touches bust; top of 5 different from No. 5; star on right close to bust; last curl meets points of last star, but does not pass through it.

Reverse: Same as reverse of No. 4.

This is the only one of this variety I have noticed.

No. 7. Obverse: Neither 1 nor 5 touch the bust. The last two curls extend down toward Milling. The date is unlike any of the other varieties.

Reverse: Precisely similar to that of the first described 1794 Half-dime, No. 1.

The piece here described was secured in Europe; and, as far as I know, is unique.

1796 Half-Dime.

A very marked change occurs in the type of this year: the obverse has a full bust of Liberty adorned with drapery. The hair is restrained by a ribbon which is tied in a bow behind; it is called fillet's head in contradistinction to the flowing hair variety.

No. 1. Obverse: Seven stars to right and eight stars to left of bust; last star on right touches bust; the 1 in date touches curl, and the 6 is pointed.

Reverse: An eagle with expanded wings is perched upon clouds, between branches of laurel and lily crossed. There are four berries in wreath; berry opposite D in United.

No. 2. Obverse: 1 in date distant from curl; last star on right does not touch bust. E in Liberty too high; 6 in date entirely different from 6 in No. 1, being blunt.

Reverse: Leaf merges in N in United; leaf touches lower point of left wing of eagle; two sprigs under right wing of eagle and near it.

This variety is much scarcer than No. 1.

1797—The general device is similar to that of the preceding year. I have found but three varieties, with three distinct obverses and three reverses. The most marked difference is in the number of stars.

No. 1. The Thirteen-star variety. Six stars to right, seven to left of bust; both 7's in date are large and of nearly equal size.

Reverse: 11 berries in wreath which meets above eagle's head; words *of* and *America* very close together.

I have never met with an uncirculated specimen of this variety, and it is difficult to obtain in any condition.

No. 2. The Fifteen-star variety. Seven stars to right, eight to left of bust; both 7's in date small and of equal size.

Reverse: Three berries; leaf distant from eagle's head; E in America higher than *M*. This variety is not so rare as No. 1, but scarcer than No. 3.

No. 3. The Sixteen-star variety. Tennessee was added to the Union in the latter part of the preceding year, and another star is added to note the event.

Obverse: Nine stars to left, seven to right of bust; first 7 in date small, last 7 large and extended to the milling.

Reverse: Three berries in wreath; leaf on left very near eagle's head.

There was no coinage of Half-dimes in the years 1798 and 1799. In the following year, 1800, the Half-dime again made its appearance, with quite a marked change in its type, the obverse being the same as the issue of 1797; the reverse having a large eagle with out-stretched wings, bearing upon its breast a large shield, and holding in its mouth a scroll with the device, E Pluribus Unum; the right talon grasps a bunch of arrows, the left a laurel

branch. Above the eagle's head are 13 stars; inscription, United States of America. I have noticed the two following varieties:

No. 1. Obverse: 8 in date slightly above 1; 6 stars to right, 7 to left of bust; stars not close together.

Reverse: As above described.

No. 2. Obverse: 8 lower than 1 in date; top of R in Liberty open, resembling a K. I noticed this peculiarity some time ago, and remarked it to a gentlemen who was cataloguing a collection, in his catalogue he termed it the Libekty variety, and as it has since become identified by that name I will thus term it, although I do not think the letter is a K. Stars to right and left much closer than in No. 1.

Reverse: Same as in No. 1.

The Half-dimes of this date are not considered rare, and specimens in a very fine state of preservation can be obtained. I have observed one or two pieces which differed from the above described varieties, but the difference was so slight, and the pieces in such poor condition, that I have not considered it important to note them.

1801—As will be seen by reference to the plate, the Half-dime of this date does not differ in design from that of the year preceding. I have noticed no varieties. Specimens can be readily obtained in fair condition, but I have never seen an uncirculated one, nor do I believe one exists in the Numismatic world. I have carefully studied the catalogues of sales from 1859 to the present time and can find no mention of the sale of a *perfect* example of this date. It is a curious fact, that fine specimens should be so difficult, or

I should say, impossible to obtain, for the issue must have been large, judging from the number of pieces I have seen; and it is a peculiarity of the Half-dimes that, with the exception of this and the 1797 thirteen-stars, they can all be obtained as fine as when dropped from the die.

1802—This piece, owing to its great rarity, commands more than a passing notice, and I have, in another part of this article, endeavored to give it a more detailed account, I will simply describe it here in its regular order.

1802 Half-Dime.

Observe, nearly similar to the 1800 Half-dime. But with this difference the 8 in date is taller than in any of the other dates; the stars on the left and stars on reverse generally very weakly struck; the 2 touches bust.

Reverse: Similar in design to the 1800 Half-dime.

I have examined several specimens, but have failed to find any varieties.

1803—Similar in general description to Half-dime of the preceding year. I have noticed three varieties.

No. 1. Obverse: Close date; slight space between the 8 and 3, the latter higher, nearly touching bust; figure 8 large and broad.

Reverse: Leaf in laurel branch touches C in America, but does not touch the last A.

No. 2. Obverse: Same as No. 1.

Reverse: Leaf in laurel branches does not touch C in America, but merges into the last A.

I have seen but one specimen of this variety.

No. 3. Obverse: Date much smaller and wider than in No. 1. Figure 8 very small and narrow.

Reverse: Same as reverse of No. 1.

This variety is scarcer than No. 1, and very difficult to obtain in fine condition. I have seen but one specimen finer than this, but the date was too weak to make it desirable for illustration.

The Half-dimes of this year are next in rarity to the 1805, and though it is not very difficult to obtain them in ordinary condition, it is very exceptional to find a sharp, perfectly struck specimen. The one on plate is the only strictly uncirculated specimen that I have seen, and the venerable coin dealer, Mr. Cogan, in cataloguing this piece in one of his sales, says in effect, that he believes it to be the finest one known.

1805—The stars are larger and first star nearer y in Liberty than in the other dates. The figures in date are close together, the top of the 8 smaller than the lower part, 5 touches bust.

Reverse: Same as the reverse of 1803—No. 2.—This is generally considered the rarest Half-dime, excepting 1802. I consider the 1792 Half-dime rarer. Although this piece is unquestionably rarer than the Half-dimes of 1801 and 1803, yet, it is not so difficult to obtain in uncirculated condition, for I have seen several very beautiful examples of this date. The dies of all the early Half-dimes, prior to 1805, were made by Mr. Robert Scott, who was appointed engraver in November, 1793.

There were no Half-dimes coined from the year 1805 until 1829, when a change was made in the device, Mr. Reich, the

former assistant engraver, having prepared the new dies; the design is thus described:

Obverse: A bust of Liberty, with the Roman mantle, facing to the left; upon the head is a liberty cap, inscribed with word "Liberty;" the hair falls gracefully over the shoulders; upon the left of the effigy are seven stars, and to the right six, thirteen in all; beneath this is the date, 1829.

Reverse: An eagle, with its wings expanded in flight, grasping three arrows in the left, and an olive branch in the right talon; upon its breast is suspended the United States shield; the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," floats upon a scroll above—legend, United States of America—5c.; the edge is engrailed. This is the first year, excepting 1792, that its denomination appears on the Half-dime. I do not propose to give all the varieties of the later Half-dimes, for there are many, and differ so little, that it would make this article too voluminous. I leave this field for those who, I hope, will write more at length upon this subject, and will content myself by naming only a few of the important varieties.

From 1829 to 1837, the type remains the same. There are two varieties of the 1835, viz: large and small date, the latter being the scarcer. I have seen specimens of these years in brilliant proof condition. In 1837, in addition to the old, was added a new type, thus described:

Obverse: Liberty seated, holding in left hand pole and Liberty cap, and in right, shield with scroll inscribed Liberty; the date 1837 beneath.

Reverse: United States of America; Half-dime inside of laurel wreath. The issue was large, and uncirculated specimens can be easily obtained; there are two varieties, straight and curved date. Half-dimes of the old type were also struck, but not in such large numbers, they are scarce in uncirculated condition.

1838—The type was further changed this year, by the addition of thirteen stars, six to right and seven to left.

The New Orleans mint struck some pieces without adding the stars, they are generally included in the series, and are extremely difficult to obtain in uncirculated condition. In ordinary condition they are common.

1839—Same as 1838, and easily obtained in uncirculated condition.

1840—Two varieties.

No. 1. Similar to 1839.

No. 2. Last star to left further from shield; drapery hanging from elbow of Liberty.

Reverse: Large letters.

This variety is scarce in fine condition.

The type does not again change until 1853.

The Half-dimes of 1842, '46 and '47 are difficult to find in sharp uncirculated condition.

There are two varieties of the 1848 Half-dime, large and small date, the former is scarce.

On March 3, 1853, the weight of all the silver pieces, except the dollars, was reduced, and an arrow head on each side of the date was affixed to distinguish the old from the new standard. Of the old type there were issued in 1853, 135,000 Half-dimes, they are scarcer than the new.

In the year 1856, the arrow heads disappear, and in 1860 a change was effected in the type. A wreath of cereals instead of the laurel wreath, and the legend, United States of America, takes the place of the stars on obverse; this design was used until 1873, when the coinage of the silver Half-dimes ceased.

In 1864 the mint record shows, that but 470 Half-dimes were struck at the Philadelphia mint. They are becoming difficult to obtain.

The Half-dime of 1802.

I have endeavored, in the following article, to give a list of the number of the Half-dimes of this date known to collectors, and also a brief history, if I may so term it, of each individual piece, describing its condition, price realized when sold at public or private sales, and as far as I am able, the names of the purchasers. I write thus in detail, because I think it may be interesting to collectors to learn all they can about this—the most desirable pieces of the American silver series. I forsee, that some Numismatists will take issue with me in the statement, that the 1802 Half-dime is the most desirable of the silver series. My reason for giving it the most exalted place, I will endeavor to explain. If a collector were asked to name the four

rarest American silver coins, he would, I am sure, naming them in the order of their denominations, say: the 1804 Dollar, 1823 Quarter, 1827 Quarter, and 1802 Half-dime. I will assume that these are the rarest.

The 1804 Dollar has been re-struck. The dies were not destroyed till the year 1860, and I believe the pieces were re-struck from the dies, upon two occasions, a short time prior to this year. Disgraceful as the fact is—true it is, that these pieces were re-struck in the United States Mint by some of its employees, no doubt, for the purpose of speculation; and a re-struck specimen now graces the Mint Cabinet, and is described in the most glowing terms to strangers, as one of the most valuable pieces in the collection, worth, no doubt, one thousand dollars. The custodians of the collection know full well, that their piece is a re-strike, for I am indebted to one of them for this information. I wonder that they allow the piece to remain, testifying as it does, to the past queer doings of the Mint.

The 1827 Quarter has also been re-struck. The 1823 Quarter is struck from the altered die of the Quarter of the preceding year, and possesses no characteristics of its own. The 1802 Half-dime is open to none of these objections. It has never been re-struck. The dies were made for that year and were destroyed. I have seen many dangerous counterfeits of the 1804 Dollar and of the 1823 Quarter, but have never seen one of the 1802 Half-dime.

Upon these facts I base my opinion, that the Half-dime of 1802 is the most desirable of the silver series.

There are, I believe—and I make this assertion, having given the subject a good deal of study and research—but sixteen specimens of the Half-dime of this year, known to be in the possession of dealers or collectors. That a larger number were coined I do not doubt, but what that number is, will never become known, as the Mint authorities declare there is no way of ascertaining it. In 1863, but three specimens had been discovered—the number is now more than quintupled, and it may be that it will be further increased, but very gradually, I am sure, and not at all in proportion to the increasing demand.

No. 1. The first 1802 Half-dime, sold at public auction, brought $340. It was sold in the collection of Wm. A. Lilliendahl, of Tremont, N. J., Dec. 15, 17, 1863. Catalogued by Wm. H. Strowbridge, thus: "1802—The finest of three known. This piece is the rarest of the American series, and more desirable than the Dollar of 1804. Never before offered at auction." (This specimen was in only *very good condition.*) I do not know by whom it was purchased.

No. 2. Catalogued by W. Elliott Woodward, in Mickley's Sale —"1802. Not fine, but in very fair condition. This piece is rarer than any other coin in the American Silver Series, there being but three specimens known, one of which is finer than this, the other not as good. The former sold in Mr. Lilliendahl's sale for $360." (Error, it brought $340.) Purchased by Mr. Sanford for $45.

Subsequently sold in the Sanford collection of coins for $45. Purchased by Mr. Parmelee, afterwards sold in one of Mr. J. W. Haseltine's sales for $56 to Wm. H. Cottier, Esq., of Buffalo,

New York, and again sold in a sale of that gentleman's silver series, May 5th, 1882, for $39 to Mr. Sampson, Dealer.

No. 3. In the sale of the collection of John F. McCoy, Esq., of New York, catalogued by Mr. W. Elliott Woodward, May 17–21, 1864, another specimen appeared, thus described: "1802: Obverse in very satisfactory condition; the date and every portion of the head, together with the stars in front of the face and the word Liberty, with the exception of two letters together with a portion of the stars back of the head, are perfectly distinct. Some of the stars are partially and others wholly obliterated, as are the letters Li in Liberty. The piece is further blemished by two slight scratches across the face; the reverse is scratched and very badly worn. This piece was originally from the Stearn collection and more recently from that of Dr. Augustus Shurtleff. Of its genuineness there is no possible doubt, being one of but three existing, it is the very rarest and most desirable of the silver series." Sold for $50, name of purchaser not known.

No. 4. In the sale of the collection of Henry S. Adams, Esq., October 30, 1876, catalogued by Edward Cogan, a specimen was sold, described thus: "1802: The obverse of this extremely rare Half-dime is in better condition than any I remember to have been offered at auction for some years, and is decidedly better than the one in the Langford collection, which sold for $45. In this condition it will be desirable for any collection." Brought $70, purchased by Mr. Ashworth.

No. 5. A very poor specimen was purchased by Mr. John W. Haseltine from Mr. Brown, a dealer in New York. It appeared

in no less than six sales, and brought prices varying from $12 to $40; but, although guaranteed genuine (and genuine undoubtedly it was, for I owned the piece at one time and compared it very carefully with another in my possession) it was always returned by the bidder as "*too poor*"—it was finally sold as one of a lot of poor Half-dimes, described in Chapman's sale, November 19th and 20th, 1880. "1802: Obverse shows 802, the 1 being indistinct; all the word 'Liberty,' excepting the letter y; the head, bust, and a few stars to right of bust visible; the inscription on bust is barely visible." It brought in this sale $40.

No. 6. Another specimen sold in the sale of the Smith Cabinet, October 19–21, 1880, catalogued by Mason & Co., thus: "1802: Good specimen in date, bust, word Liberty and stars very little worn, but weak in stars on left of bust and slightly indented. Reverse not quite as good as obverse; guaranteed original, cost owner $77.50; of the highest rarity, in any condition. Brought $95." Was purchased by Mr. H. P. Newlin, of Philadelphia.

Sold in the Burton sale, October 26–28, 1881. Catalogued by W. Elliott Woodward, as follows: "This piece is bent, but for which circumstance it could be only fairly described as fine. The bust shows but little evidence of wear; the hair is only a trifle worn, but has two or three litttle nicks. Liberty is fine and distinct; the date bold; the stars facing well struck up and prominent, those back of the head all distinct, but not so well struck. The reverse about as good as the obverse. The eagle very good; lines on the shield, feathers on the wings, perfectly distinct, as are the clouds and nearly all the stars. Every letter in the legend plain. Most desirable for any collection." Brought $100. Pur-

chased by C. P. Britton, Esq., of New York, and subsequently sold in the Britton sale, January 29, 1883, for $115. Bought by Scott & Co., for a customer.

No. 7. This piece was picked up in Europe, and was bought by Mr. Betts, for $125. It was sold in Cogan's sale, September 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1878, and was described as follows: "This is one of the best specimens of this Half-dime I have ever known to be offered at auction, and certainly the best, if I except the one sold in the Redlick sale, by Mr. Scott, which had been too highly polished to cause me to value it very highly. This is unusually fine, and the rarest Half-dime known. The piece was purchased at the sale by Mr. Haines, for $130." It was again sold in W. Elliott Woodward's sale of Haines' collection, October 13–16, 1880, and was thus described: "1802: Barely circulated, having only the slightest marks of friction; polished surface; believed to be as fine a Half-dime of the date as exists." This piece was bought by Mr. John E. Burton, for $240, and was purchased indirectly from that gentleman by Mr. Newlin. Sold in the Newlin sale for $400; bought by Mr. Garrett, of Baltimore, in whose possession it remains. It is undoubtedly the finest known, if we except the uncirculated specimen in the collection of Mr. L. C. Parmelee. As I have never seen this piece, I cannot give my opinion. One gentleman, who had seen both pieces, informs me, that Mr. Parmelee's is the better. Another gentleman, who likewise examined them both, declares this to be much the finer. So I think, that the honors should be divided.

No. 8. This piece was picked up in Charlotte, Va., in the following rather curious manner:

A colored man purchased a loaf of bread with it. The baker used it for street-car fare, putting it in one of the Slawson boxes in use in the cars. The receiver, who unlocked the boxes and counted the fares, noticed the date of the piece, and found, upon reference to the printed price-list of a dealer living in the vicinity, that he could obtain $10 for it. This he hastened to do. The dealer sold it for $20, to Mr. C. F. W. Moser, of Charlotte, Va. Mr. Moser sold it to Mr. John W. Haseltine, the well-known dealer, for $60. Mr. Haseltine sold it in the Ahlborn collection, June 16 and 17, 1881, describing it thus: "1802: The date bold and well defined; the obverse well struck; the reverse a little weak in a few places; a very good specimen, and might be termed fine for date; excessively rare; desirable for any cabinet; the owner has been offered, and refused $100 for the piece; it is limited to that price." Purchased by Mr. L. C. Parmelee, for $117.

No. 9. A very fine specimen—"picked up" by Mr. Gambo, coin dealer, in St. Louis; sold by him to Mr. Brown, coin dealer, N. Y., afterwards sold at public auction, by Scott & Co., in the Redlick sale, for $172, and later sold by Mr. Sampson, dealer, to Mr. Parmelee, of Boston.

No. 10. In December, 1882, Mason & Co. picked up another specimen in poor condition, for $10. It was sold to a collector, and again appeared in Haseltine's 64th sale, January 18, 1883. Catalogued thus: 1802: Poor, very much battered; head and most of the stars distinct; the date distinct; undoubtedly genuine, and guaranteed excessively rare. Brought $15.

No. 11. Dr. E. Maris, of Philadelphia, purchased a collection, containing a very fine 1802 Half-dime, from a gentleman in Wil-

mington Del. S. K. Harzfeld, dealer, purchased the piece from Dr. Maris for $100, and sold it again for $125 to Mr. Jackman, of Bath, New Hampshire, in whose possession it still remains.

No. 12. About two years ago, Mason & Co. purchased a very fine specimen from a stationer, in Louisville, Ky., for $75. Now the property of Mr. R. C. Davis of this city. Never offered for public competition.

No. 13. An uncirculated specimen, in the cabinet of L. C. Parmelee, of Boston, Mass. This piece has never been offered for public competition.

No. 14. Mr. Woodward offered a very fine specimen in one of his recent sales, limited at $300. It was not sold, but I am informed, that Mr. Woodward subsequently sold it, at an advance over the limit, to Mr. Chas. A. Rice, Chelsea, Mass., in whose possession it now remains.

No. 15. A specimen, in fair condition, was offered for sale in Philadelphia and Baltimore last spring. Purchased by Dr. Massamore for $45.

No. 16. A specimen was sold at the Cohen sale, October 25th to 29th, 1875, catalogued by Edward Cogan, as follows: 1802: Rarest of the Half-dimes; date remarkably clear; stars on right-hand side very good; head rubbed; reverse poor, battered; extremely rare. Brought $23.

It was the intention to photograph all the varieties herein described, but the idea was abandoned, as it was found impossible to have the pieces produced with sufficient clearness, to note with ease the slight varieties. Plate No. 1. shows only the obverse of

a few of the finest Half-dimes, and Plate No. 2. some of the finest Dimes, which comprised the Newlin collection—sold at auction, April 10, 1883. The Plates were to have been sent out with the catalogues, but as they did not do the pieces justice, it was decided to withhold them. The following are the prices realized at the sale:

PLATE I.

1853	Quarter			$22	50		
1792	Half-Disme			12	50		
1794	Half-Dime,	No.	1	7	50		
"	"	"	2	8	00		
"	"	"	3	21	50		
"	"	"	4	4	25		
1795	"	"	1	13	00		
"	"	"	2	21	00		
"	"	"	3	7	00		
"	"	"	4	7	50		
"	"	"	5	5	25		
"	"	"	6	2	50		
"	"	"	7	7	25		
1796	"	"	1	12	00		
1796	Half-Dime,	No.	2	$30	00		
1797	"	13	stars	25	00		
"	"	15	"	17	50		
"	"	16	"	17	00		
1800	"	No.	1	5	35		
"	"	"	2	11	50		
"	"	Copper		8	00		
1801	"			9	00		
1802	"			400	00		
1803	"	No.	1	11	00		
"	"	"	2	34	00		
"	"	"	3	2	85		
1805	"			11	00		
1838	"			18	00		

PLATE II.

1796	Dime			$16	00		
1796	"			17	00		
1797	"	13	stars	15	50		
1797	"	16	stars	29	00		
1798	"	over	7	7	00		
1798	"	perfect	date	30	00		
1804	"			14	00		
1809	"			30	00		
1811	"			8	50		
1814	Dime			$	4	20	
1822	"			24	00		
1824	"			13	25		
1828	"	Small	Date	3	70		
1828	"	Large	Date	18	50		
1844	"			3	75		
1846	"			4	50		
1797	Half-Dollar			not	sold		
1875	Dollar			86	00		

Box IX Folder 5 Catalogues and Inventories: United States